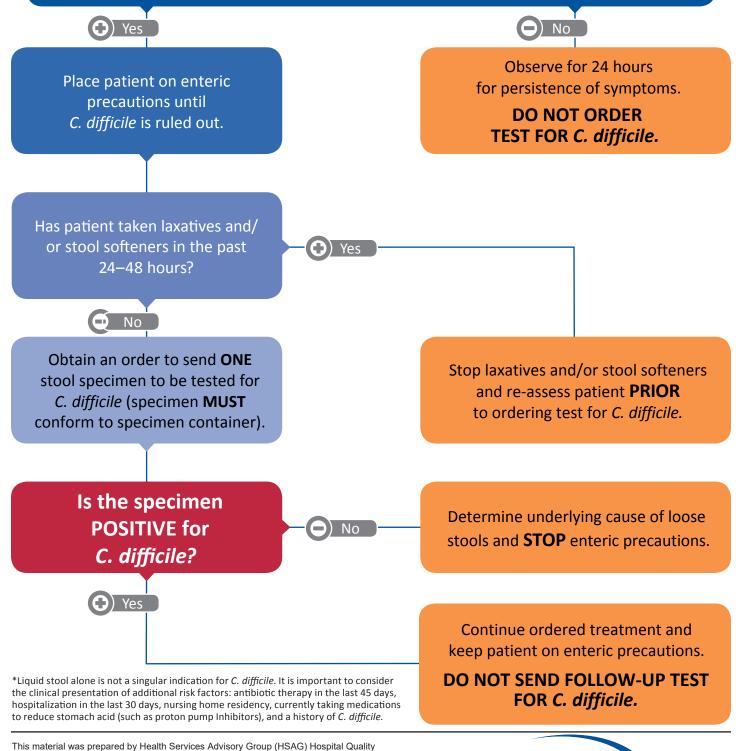# *Clostridioides difficile* Infection
# Stool Collection Algorithm

**Did the patient have three or more liquid stools within a 24-hour time period at any time during admission that was not a normal bowel pattern for the patient?***

**⊕ Yes**

Place patient on enteric precautions until *C. difficile* is ruled out.

**⊖ No**

Observe for 24 hours for persistence of symptoms.

**DO NOT ORDER TEST FOR *C. difficile*.**

Has patient taken laxatives and/or stool softeners in the past 24–48 hours?

**⊕ Yes**

Stop laxatives and/or stool softeners and re-assess patient **PRIOR** to ordering test for *C. difficile*.

**⊖ No**

Obtain an order to send **ONE** stool specimen to be tested for *C. difficile* (specimen **MUST** conform to specimen container).

**Is the specimen POSITIVE for *C. difficile*?**

**⊖ No**

Determine underlying cause of loose stools and **STOP** enteric precautions.

**⊕ Yes**

Continue ordered treatment and keep patient on enteric precautions.

**DO NOT SEND FOLLOW-UP TEST FOR *C. difficile*.**

*Liquid stool alone is not a singular indication for *C. difficile*. It is important to consider the clinical presentation of additional risk factors: antibiotic therapy in the last 45 days, hospitalization in the last 30 days, nursing home residency, currently taking medications to reduce stomach acid (such as proton pump Inhibitors), and a history of *C. difficile*.

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